

**Opinion 2387 (Case 3645) – *Orthezia characias* [Bosc d'Antic], 1784 (Insecta, Hemiptera, ORTHEZIIDAE): generic and specific names available**

International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature

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**Abstract.** International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature has used its plenary power to ruled that the generic name *Orthezia* [Bosc d'Antic], 1784 and the specific name *characias* [Bosc d'Antic], 1784 are available. *Orthezia-Characias* [Bosc d'Antic], 1784 and *d'Orthezia-Characias* [Bosc d'Antic], 1784 are ruled to be incorrect original spellings of the former. The work in which *Orthezia* [Bosc d'Antic], 1784 and *characias* [Bosc d'Antic], 1784 were published is ruled to be available for nomenclatural purposes and placed on the Official List of Works Approved as Available for Zoological Nomenclature.

**Keywords.** Nomenclature; taxonomy; COCCOIDEA; ORTHEZIIDAE; *Orthezia*; *Orthezia characias*; ensign scale insects.

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**Ruling**

- (1) The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature has ruled under the plenary power that:
  - (a) the generic name *Orthezia* [Bosc d'Antic], 1784 is an available name with two incorrect original spellings (*Orthezia-Characias* [Bosc d'Antic], 1784 and *d'Orthezia-Characias* [Bosc d'Antic], 1784), and is available from [Bosc d'Antic] (1784, p. 173);
  - (b) the specific name *characias* [Bosc d'Antic], 1784 is available from [Bosc d'Antic] (1784, p. 173) despite its original proposal as a component of the original spellings *Orthezia-Characias* [Bosc d'Antic], 1784 and *d'Orthezia-Characias* [Bosc d'Antic], 1784 of the generic name *Orthezia* [Bosc d'Antic], 1784 as ruled in (1)(a) above;
- (2) Under the plenary power, the provisions of Article 11.4 are set aside and the work [Bosc d'Antic, L.A.G.] 1784, 'Description de l'*Orthezia-Characias*' published in *Observations sur la Physique, sur l'Histoire Naturelle et sur les Arts*, vol. 24, pp. 171–173, pl. 1, figs. 2–4 is ruled to be available for nomenclatural purposes;
- (3) the name *Orthezia* [Bosc d'Antic], 1784 (gender: feminine), type species by monotypy *Orthezia characias* [Bosc d'Antic], 1784, is hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology;
- (4) the name *characias* [Bosc d'Antic], 1784, as published in the binomen *Orthezia characias* (specific name of the type species of *Orthezia* [Bosc d'Antic], 1784), is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology;



- (5) the following names are hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology:
- (a) *Orthezia-Characias* [Bosc d'Antic], 1784, an incorrect original spelling of *Orthezia* [Bosc d'Antic], 1784, as ruled in (1)(a) above;
  - (b) *d'Orthezia-Characias* [Bosc d'Antic], 1784, an incorrect original spelling of *Orthezia* [Bosc d'Antic], 1784, as ruled in (1)(a) above;
- (6) the work [Bosc d'Antic, L.A.G.], 1784, 'Description de l'*Orthezia-Characias*' published in *Observations sur la Physique, sur l'Histoire Naturelle et sur les Arts*, vol. 24, pp. 171–173, pl. 1, figs. 2–4, is hereby placed on the Official List of Works Approved as Available for Zoological Nomenclature.

### History of Case 3645

An application to establish by plenary power the availability of *Orthezia* [Bosc d'Antic], 1784 and *Orthezia characias* [Bosc d'Antic], 1784 was received from D.J. Williams (*Department of Life Sciences (Entomology), The Natural History Museum, London, U.K.*) and Danièle Matile-Ferrero (*Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Département Systématique et Evolution, Paris, France*) on 2 December 2013. After correspondence the Case was published in BZN 71(1): 7–12 on 31 March 2014 (Williams & Matile-Ferrero, 2014). The title, abstract and keywords of the Case were published on the Commission's website. A comment in support of the application was published in BZN 71(2): 103 on 30 June 2014 (Jansen, 2014).

The Case was sent for vote on 1 September 2015 (VP 19). A greater than two-thirds majority of Commissioners voted FOR the Case (20 For, 1 Against).

### Decision of the Commission

At the close of the voting period on 1 December 2015 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes – 20: Alonso-Zarazaga, Ballerio, Bogutskaya, Bouchet, Brothers, Grygier, Halliday, Harvey, Kojima, Krell, Kullander, Lamas, Pape, Pyle, Rosenberg, van Tol, Winston, Yanega, Zhang and Zhou.

Negative votes – 1: Kottelat.

Fautin, Ng, Patterson and Štys were on leave of absence.

Voting FOR, Grygier stated that the second sentence of paragraph 1 of the Case (Williams & Matile-Ferrero, 2014, p. 7) was misleading as the elided French article “l” was obviously not part of the generic name, even though the status of the elided possessive particle “d” in this respect was ambiguous, as discussed in the first sentence of paragraph 2 of the Case (Williams & Matile-Ferrero, 2014, p. 8). Also voting FOR, Rosenberg stated that the authors overlooked Article 11.2, which states that the presence of a hyphen does not make a scientific name unavailable. This means that the Commission did not need to rule that the work is available and could have ruled under the specific powers that since the original author stated the intention to name a genus and a species, the species name is available and should be treated as composed of generic and specific names. Also voting FOR, van Tol similarly stated that Article 11.2 states that hyphens in species group names are to be eliminated without affecting the availability of the name and if it applies in this instance, then the names were already available. Also voting FOR, Yanega stated that there was some doubt as to whether the reasoning in the application accurately represented the proper interpretation of the Code, but it was also clear that the list of



suggested rulings would be quite appropriate and effective in resolving the problem, leading him to vote FOR.

Voting AGAINST, Kottelat stated that no vote was necessary and an application of the Code would have been sufficient, and that the application should not have been published. The work clearly uses binominal nomenclature and there is no need to place it on the List of Works Approved as Available for Zoological Nomenclature. [Bosc d'Antic] (1784, p. 173) explicitly created a genus and a species name, and although the author's use of an hyphen between the genus and species names is odd (in today's context), this does not make it a genus name; that it seems to have been an idiosyncrasy of the editor is totally irrelevant.

### Original descriptions

The following are the original descriptions to the entries on either an Official List or an Index in the ruling given in the present Opinion:

*characias*, *Orthezia*, [Bosc d'Antic], 1883: 173.

*d'Orthezia-Characias* [Bosc d'Antic], 1784: 173.

*Orthezia* [Bosc d'Antic], 1883: 173.

*Orthezia-Characias* [Bosc d'Antic], 1784: 173.

### References

- [Bosc d'Antic, L.A.G]. 1784. Description de l'*Orthezia-Characias*. *Observations sur la Physique, sur l'Histoire Naturelle et sur les Arts*, **24**: 171–173, pl. 1, figs 2–4.
- Jansen, M. 2014. Comment on the proposed validation of the generic and specific names as available of *Orthezia characias* [Bosc d'Antic], 1784 (Insecta, Hemiptera, ORTHEZIIDAE). *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*, **71**(2): 103.
- Williams, D.J. & Matile-Ferrero, D. 2014. *Orthezia characias* [Bosc d'Antic], 1784 (Insecta, Hemiptera, ORTHEZIIDAE): proposed validation of the generic and specific names as available. *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*, **71**(1): 7–12.